



Food Distribution Task Force Responses

October 10, 2013

Assets

David Mullaney

- 10+ volunteers every Saturday afternoon
- Meals for 100 – 120

Food not Bombs

- Food and free groceries in Moore Square every Sunday around 5:00 pm

Love Wins Ministries

- Two tables, 100 biscuits, coffee on Saturday and Sunday

Human Beans

- Approximately 12 volunteers each Sunday and 120 hot meals per week, some clothes and misc.

Davis and Debbie Biesack

- We are meeting a need and people know it and where to receive it
- Many years of volunteering which results in continuity, trust, ongoing relationships
- Passionate volunteers
- Network of volunteers

The Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness

- Many non-profits have locations that could be suitable for food provision. *Some* may be interested in acting as a Care Point;
- Most non-profits have compassionate, experienced volunteers and staff that could engage and serve;
- Our members can provide so much more than a one-time relief to hunger: counseling, healthcare, benefits access, pathway to housing, etc;
- We can communicate to the non-profits to share needs and opportunities in the community.

Wake County

- Wake County General Service Building parking lot – 401 Capital Blvd, Sat/Sun. (accessible via bus or short walk from Downtown)
- Wake County South Wilmington Street Shelter parking lot – 1420 South Wilmington St, Sat/Sun (accessible via bus or short walk from Downtown)
- Wake County Human Services Building parking lot – 220 Swinburne St., Sat/Sun (accessible via bus or short walk from Downtown)
- Wake County Human Services Building parking lot – 10 Sunnybrook Rd, Sat/Sun (accessible via bus or short walk from Downtown)

Catholic Charities

- Catholic Parish Outreach – 2013 N. Raleigh Blvd (indoor/outdoor?)

City of Raleigh

- City of Raleigh park picnic shelters
- City of Raleigh community centers
- City of Raleigh Community Development vacant parcels (temporary)
- City of Raleigh City Market parking lot (temporary)
- City of Raleigh parking lot in the warehouse district
- City of Raleigh former Transit Operations Center
- City of Raleigh former Salvation Army site, outdoors (temporary)
- City of Raleigh former Salvation Army site, indoors (temporary)
- City of Raleigh tents, garbage carts, design/printing/notices
- City of Raleigh staff; COG coordinator, Community Policing officers, volunteers

Episcopal Diocese

- Episcopal Diocese parking lot – 200 W. Morgan St. Sat/Sun

Challenges

Church in the Woods

- Homeless persons need for protection from gangs

David and Debbie Biesack

- Lack of trust of City of Raleigh, Parks and Recreation, Raleigh Police Department
- No admission of who gave orders to police to threaten arrest - only denials. We cannot work where there is no trust
- Starting point is “Food Distribution Alternatives” - this supports and propagates our collective fear that there is a predestined outcome, despite assertions to the contrary.
- General belief that big money (developers, larger tax base, etc) are driving this behind the scenes.

The Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness

- The City's stance until lately has been to turn a blind eye toward the groups who seek out provision and engagement with those experiencing homelessness. Rather than welcoming independent groups who seek to provide food for some of our most fragile citizens, the City has “tolerated” their presence and been fairly clear in its dislike of what is going on in Moore Square. The statutory prohibition and police action may force compassionate providers to remain relatively small and “under the radar.” Many groups operate independently and resist attempts to organize because of fear of losing their autonomy and a sense that the root motivation is to sweep them and those they serve off to the side.

Wake County

- Wake County spaces would require security onsite and review of additional liability concerns by County Attorney before final commitment

Human Beans

- Trying to meet changing rules, ordinances and subjective enforcement

City of Raleigh

- City of Raleigh picnic shelter and community center spaces will require a responsible party for use, liability insurance coverage in accordance with Risk Management requirements, clean-up after use, availability of these spaces for all groups and neighborhood support of this use in the park.
- City of Raleigh Community Development vacant lots are development sites and maybe very temporary. They may have some hazards present such as holes, broken glass, etc. . They too will require a responsible party for use, liability insurance coverage in accordance with Risk Management requirements, and clean-up after use.
- City of Raleigh City Market parking lot presents with some safety concerns, people and vehicles in same spaces. Would require a responsible party for use,

liability insurance coverage in accordance with Risk Management requirements, and clean-up after use. This site is also a potential development site and may be temporary. Local merchants may not want any reduction in available parking.

- City of Raleigh parking lot in the warehouse district would require a responsible party for use, liability insurance coverage in accordance with Risk Management requirements, and clean-up after use. Safety concerns present with people and vehicles in the same spaces. Some spaces are sold as monthly leases which may preclude some weekend use and there may be revenue loss from hourly parking. The City leases them and they are likely development sites in the future.
- City of Raleigh former Transit Operations facility presents as a former industrial site and may have safety concerns. The space is still used by other City functions. Would require a responsible party for use, liability insurance coverage in accordance with Risk Management requirements, and clean-up after use.
- City of Raleigh former Salvation Army (outdoors) would require a responsible party for use, liability insurance coverage in accordance with Risk Management requirements, and clean-up after use. This site is also a potential development site and may be temporary. The exterior of the Salvation Army site has some safety problems due to its physical design and in order to be used for food distribution these physical problems would need to be mitigated.
- City of Raleigh former Salvation Army (indoors) would require a responsible party for use, liability insurance coverage in accordance with Risk Management requirements, and clean-up after use. This site is also a potential development site and may be temporary. The City does not intend to occupy this with a day-to-day use, it will not be heated or cooled nor otherwise maintained beyond a minimal level to prevent further deterioration.
- City of Raleigh tents are in demand to support other City functions and may have limited availability. Staff must be paid overtime to set-up and take down.
- City of Raleigh garbage carts have an overtime cost to pick up on weekends.
- City of Raleigh design and print services may require overtime and have direct cost to reproduce.
- City of Raleigh staff COG coordinator and Community Policing officers may have limited capacity to focus only on food distribution.

Wish list

Church in the Woods

- More picnic shelters in parks
- Porta-potties in parks
- “Somewhere to be”
- Drop-in center on east side with showers, laundry, classes, counseling, resources and spiritual help.

David Mullaney

- Cover from inclement weather

Love Wins Ministry

- Central location to Downtown Raleigh with bus access and easy to walk to
- Bathroom
- Something similar to the Good Shepherd soup kitchen open on Sat/Sun
- City to be present in this feeding

David and Debbie Biesack

- Acknowledgement that hungry who receive food are not “a problem”
- Acknowledgement that hungry who receive food have civil rights
- Stable, known location that does not move around
- Clean, adequate bathroom facilities, hand washing, etc.
- Clean surfaces for food distribution
- Trash storage and removal services
- Shelter from weather
- Nobody is excluded
- No wall between recipients and general public
- Not pushed out of sight
- Open space for people to spread out
- No ordinances that prohibit meeting basic human needs on city or state parks or other property

The Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness

- Wish List centers on two points: the City providing the infrastructure and support of compassionate care for its most vulnerable citizens, and using the contact point of food provision as an opportunity for fuller engagement in relationship and service provision so that those experiencing homelessness and poverty have access to more sustainable living.
 - Infrastructure –
 - The City should provide accessible and well-advertised facilities where safe, sanitary food provision may occur;
 - These facilities should provide restrooms and hand washing stations;
 - The facilities should be geographically diverse so as to reach populations that may not be able to reach downtown;

- The facilities should also include centralized locations, such as Moore Square, so that continuity of contact can be achieved;
- The facilities may include open-air sites, such as a park, and sheltered facilities for inclement weather;
- Use of public spaces should be reasonably regulated with appropriate fees and/or deposits made to assist the City in clean up and to maintain a record of who is using the facilities;
- The City should create and maintain a user-friendly data base so that supportive groups can coordinate food provision and other services.
- Fuller Engagement –
 - The data base system should also steer volunteers and potential consumers (those experiencing homelessness) to other services that need volunteer efforts;
 - Each food provision location should be adequately staffed with a combination of paid staff and volunteers who can act as “navigators” for those who wish to engage in other services such as case management, counseling, rapid re-housing, job training, healthcare, etc;
 - The City should partner with service providers to host, facilitate, and teach willing volunteers in learning more about a realistic view of poverty and homelessness, and how to serve the least of these in our community;
 - A small army of concerned and compassionate citizens has either already been involved in serving the needy for years, or has been awakened to the needs in our city by recent events. Mobilizing these potential volunteers to do more than provide a one-time meal, but to share sustainable-life skills could make a major impact on the problem of poverty in our city.

Human Beans

- Availability of a place to fight hunger and provide necessities to those who need them in the community

City of Raleigh and Wake County

- Adequate resources for City of Raleigh and Wake County to engage in a partnership to support food distribution for those in need.